

BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

February 14 , 2005

IN RE:)	
)	
PETITION FOR APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT TO)	DOCKET NO.
THE INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT BETWEEN)	04-00386
BELLSOUTH TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC. AND)	
ACCESS POINT, INC.)	

**ORDER APPROVING
FOURTH AMENDMENT TO THE INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT**

This matter came before Chairman Pat Miller, Director Deborah Taylor Tate and Director Ron Jones of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority (the "Authority" or "TRA"), the voting panel assigned to this docket, at a regularly scheduled Authority Conference held on January 10, 2005, to consider, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 252, the Petition for approval of the fourth amendment to the interconnection agreement negotiated between BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. and Access Point, Inc.

The original interconnection agreement and first amendment thereto between these parties were filed on July 18, 2003, and were assigned Docket No. 03-00440. They were approved at a regularly scheduled Authority Conference on August 18, 2003. The second amendment was filed on September 29, 2003, under Docket No. 03-00532 and was approved at a regularly scheduled Authority Conference on November 24, 2003. The third amendment was filed on August 11, 2004, and was approved at a regularly scheduled Authority Conference on September 27, 2004. The fourth amendment, which is the subject of this docket, was filed on November 4, 2004.

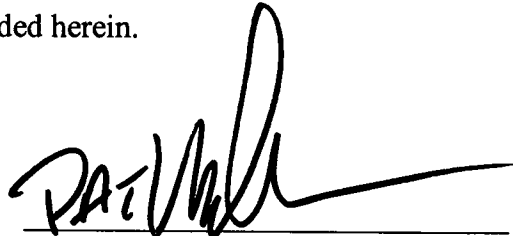
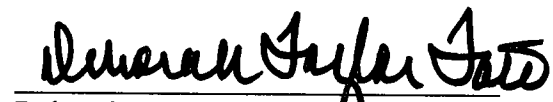
Based upon a review of the amendment, the record in this matter, and the standards for review set forth in 47 U.S.C. § 252, the Directors unanimously granted the Petition and made the following findings and conclusions:

- 1) The Authority has jurisdiction over public utilities pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-104 (2004).
- 2) The amendment is in the public interest as it provides consumers with alternative sources of telecommunications services within the service area of BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.
- 3) The amendment is not discriminatory to telecommunications service providers that are not parties thereto.
- 4) 47 U.S.C. § 252(e)(2)(A) provides that a state commission may reject a negotiated agreement only if it “discriminates against a telecommunications carrier not a party to the agreement” or if the implementation of the agreement “is not consistent with the public interest, convenience or necessity.” Unlike arbitrated agreements, a state commission may not reject a negotiated agreement on the grounds that the agreement fails to meet the requirements of 47 U.S.C. §§ 251 or 252(d).¹ Thus, although the Authority finds that neither ground for rejection of a negotiated agreement exists, this finding should not be construed to mean that the amendment is consistent with §§ 251 or 252(d) or, for that matter, previous Authority decisions.
- 5) No person or entity has sought to intervene in this docket.
- 6) The amendment is reviewable by the Authority pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 252 and Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-104 (2004).

¹ See 47 U.S.C. § 252(e)(2)(B).

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

The Petition is granted, and the fourth amendment to the interconnection agreement negotiated between BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. and Access Point, Inc. is approved and is subject to the review of the Authority as provided herein.


Pat Miller, Chairman
Deborah Taylor Tate, Director
Ron Jones, Director